

Appl. No. 10/016,984
Amdt. Dated 11/12/2004
Reply to Final Office action of 9/17/2004

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A surgical [[instrument]] device comprising:
a body having a handle portion and a distal end with an instrument extending therefrom;
and
a guard member disposed around the [[instrument]] body being selectively slidable along
and around the [[instrument]] body, the guard member comprising:
a first opening formed for receiving a reduced diameter portion of the
[[instrument]] body;
a second opening formed opposite the first opening for receiving the distal end of
the [[instrument]] body;
a third opening formed between the first and second openings and extending to
the first opening partially exposing the instrument; and
a means for locking the guard member in either an open position to expose the
instrument, or a closed position to protect the instrument comprising
threads.
8. (Currently Amended) The surgical [[instrument]] device of claim 7 further comprising a
grip on the guard member.

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9. (Currently Amended) The surgical [[instrument]] device of claim 7 wherein the guard member is translucent.

10. (Currently Amended) The surgical [[instrument]] device of claim 8 wherein the guard member is translucent.

11. (Currently Amended) The surgical [[instrument]] device of claim 7 wherein the guard member is translucent and includes a plurality of protrusions formed on the exterior thereof.

12-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The surgical [[instrument]] device of claim 7 further including a plurality of protrusions formed on the exterior of the guard member, the protrusions facilitating movement of the guard member and reducing rolling capacity of the surgical [[instrument]] device.

23-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) The surgical [[instrument]] device of claim 7 wherein the reduced diameter portion of the [[instrument]] body includes a first set of external threads and a second set of external threads.

30. (Currently Amended) The surgical [[instrument]] device of claim 22 wherein the reduced diameter portion of the [[instrument]] body includes a first set of external threads and a second set of external threads.